

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Pending Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A reclosable package comprising:

a receptacle comprising first and second receptacle walls that oppose each other and an interior space disposed between said first and second receptacle walls;

a flexible zipper comprising first and second zipper strips that are mutually interlockable, said interior space being enclosed when said zipper is closed; and

a header that shrouds said zipper, said header comprising first and second header walls joined to each other in a first zone that runs along a top of said header, and said first header wall having a cutout in a corner of said header so that a portion of said second header wall forms a free graspable tab that extends beyond the bounds of said first header wall in said corner of said header, said tab including a portion of a side edge of said second header wall, said side edge of said second header wall extending from said top of said header to a bottom of said receptacle is offset relative to said first header wall in said corner.

Claim 2 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 1, further comprising a slider mounted to said zipper, said slider being movable in a first direction along said zipper for opening said zipper and movable in a second direction along said zipper for closing said zipper.

Claim 3 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 1, wherein the ends of said header are not sealed.

Claim 4 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said first and second zipper strips is flanged.

Claim 5 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said first and second zipper strips is flangeless.

Claim 6 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 1, wherein said first receptacle wall and said first header wall are respective portions of a first sheet of film material, and said second receptacle wall and said second header wall are respective portions of a second sheet of film material.

Claim 7 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 1, wherein said second header wall has a line of weakened tear resistance that extends laterally across at least a portion of the width of said second header wall and at an elevation below interlocked profiles of said first and second zipper strips.

Claim 8 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 7, wherein said line of weakened tear resistance comprises a multiplicity of spaced perforations.

Claim 9 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 7, wherein said line of weakened tear resistance comprises a scoreline.

Claim 10 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 7, wherein said line of weakened tear resistance begins

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at one side of said second header wall at an elevation below the lowest point of said cutout in said first header wall.

Claim 11 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said first and second receptacle walls has a pocket formed therein, further comprising a product residing in said pocket.

Claim 12 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 11, wherein said first and second receptacle walls are hermetically sealed to each other along an entire periphery that surrounds said pocket.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A reclosable package comprising:

first and second sheets of film material sealed together on three sides to form a receptacle having a mouth and an interior space and sealed across at least a portion of a fourth side to form a header that shrouds said mouth; and

a flexible zipper comprising first and second zipper strips that are mutually interlockable, said first zipper strip being joined to said first sheet and said second zipper strip being joined to said second sheet, said mouth of said receptacle being closed when said zipper is closed,

wherein said first sheet has a cutout in a corner of said header so that a portion of said second sheet ~~in that corner is offset relative to said first sheet forms a free graspable tab that extends beyond the bounds of said first sheet in said corner of said header, said tab including a portion of a side edge of~~

said second sheet, said side edge of said second sheet extending from a top of said header to a bottom of said receptacle.

Claim 14 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 13, wherein said second sheet has a line of weakened tear resistance that extends laterally across at least a portion of the width of said second sheet and at an elevation below interlocked profiles of said first and second zipper strips.

Claim 15 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 13, wherein one of said first and second sheets has a pocket formed therein, further comprising a product residing in said pocket.

Claim 16 (Original): The reclosable package as recited in claim 15, wherein said first and second sheets are hermetically sealed to each other along an entire periphery that surrounds said pocket.

Claims 17-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A reclosable package comprising:

a receptacle comprising first and second receptacle walls that oppose each other and an interior space disposed between said first and second receptacle walls;

a flexible zipper comprising first and second zipper strips that are mutually interlockable, said interior space being enclosed when said zipper is closed; and

a header that shrouds said zipper, said header comprising first and second header walls joined to each other in a first zone that runs along a top of said header, and said first header wall having a first line of weakened tear resistance that extends across a corner of said header from a top edge to a side edge of said header so that a corner portion of said first header wall can be torn away from the remainder of said first header wall when said corner of said header is pulled with sufficient force.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The reclosable package as recited in claim 31, wherein said first line of weakened tear resistance comprises a multiplicity of spaced perforations.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The reclosable package as recited in claim 31, wherein said first line of weakened tear resistance comprises a scoreline.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The reclosable package as recited in claim 31, wherein said first header wall has another a second line of weakened tear resistance that extends laterally across at least a portion of the width of said first header wall and at an elevation below interlocked profiles of said first and second zipper strips, and said first line of weakened tear resistance is entirely disposed on a portion of said first header wall that lies above said second line of weakened tear resistance.

Claim 35 (New): The reclosable package as recited in claim 34, wherein said zone of joinder is a low-peel-strength seal that allows said first header wall to be peeled apart from said second header wall in said zone of joinder as said corner of said header is pulled toward an opposite corner of said header.